NEWS

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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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Assistant U.S. Attorney HOWARD WIENER 856-968-4926 sche0423.rel FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 23, 2008

Former Police Officer Sentenced to 170 Months in Prison for Distribution of Child Pornography

(More)

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CAMDEN – A former Pennsauken Police Officer was sentenced to 170 months in federal prison today for his guilty plea to charges of transportation and shipment of child pornography over the Internet, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Renée M. Bumb also ordered John E. Schenberger, Jr., 42, of Winslow Township, to serve 10 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison sentence. Schenberger has been detained without bail since his arrest on July 10, 2007, by Special Agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"That is a long and appropriate prison sentence, particularly given that this defendant was a police officer who engaged in the conduct while on duty," said Christie. "The children depicted in those images were the victims of heinous, depraved acts. It shocks the conscience that a police officer would perpetuate their victimization by further distributing the images on the Internet."

On Jan. 2, 2008, Schenberger entered his guilty plea before Judge Bumb to a two-count Indictment that was returned in the Western District of Tennessee and transferred to the District of New Jersey.

At his plea hearing, Schenberger admitted that on June 5, 2007, he was using a computer at his place of employment, the Pennsauken Police Department, to have a conversation with another person through the instant messaging feature of the Hello.com website. Schenberger admitted that during the conversation, he sent the other person approximately 539 digital picture files and eight digital movie files, using the Hello.com file sharing software. While all of the files were sexually explicit in nature, about 373 of those files portrayed prepubescent children participating in sexually explicit poses and/or acts, Schenberger admitted. Furthermore, Schenberger admitted that about six of the eight digital movie files portrayed prepubescent children participating in sexually explicit poses and/or acts.

Schenberger admitted that on July 5, 2007, he again used a computer at the Pennsauken Police Department to log onto the instant messaging feature of the Hello.com website and again transferred approximately 532 digital picture files and three digital movie files to the same individual. Schenberger admitted that about 426 of the 532 picture files and all three of the movie files portrayed prepubescent children participating in sexually explicit poses and/or acts.

In determining the sentence, Judge Bumb consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents with ICE, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins in Newark, for investigation of the case.

Christie also thanked the Memphis Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Pennsauken Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Coffey, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The Government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Howard Wiener of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Timothy Quinlan, Esquire Merchantville